



Whitefield
Urban District Council.

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

WHITEFIELD :
W. CHEETHAM & CO., PRINTERS, BANK STREET.



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Whitefield Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council : COUNCILLOR R. HALL, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1940.

Councillor D. W. McCLUNE, *Chairman.*

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Medical Officer of Health :

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., CH.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

B. HODGSON, C.S.I. (LOND.), M.S.I.A.

Assistant to the Department :

F. E. BIRTWISTLE, A.R.I.P.H.H.

Urban District Council of Whitefield.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitefield. September, 1941.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the second interim report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. Again the Ministry of Health have suggested that reports should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year.

SECTION A—GENERAL SUMMARY.

A full year has passed and we are fortunate to be able to say that the general provision of health services for the district has been well maintained. Though necessarily curtailed in matters such as housing construction, the services have expanded in other directions, such as diphtheria immunisation. The complete cessation of building is a serious matter and one which will be felt to an increasing degree as time goes on. A number of people need rehousing, a larger number need better housing, and we all need those domestic improvements and facilities which were being steadily provided by public and private enterprise.

The year has been characterised by the establishment of a regular diphtheria immunisation service. Nearly one thousand children in the district have been immunised within twelve months—a remarkable achievement and yet not good enough to eliminate this unnecessary illness. The Council has given every encouragement, aided by two medical practitioners and the Medical Officer of Health, who treat the children at the clinics.

There has been no excessive mortality during the year, nor has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity.

The only change in the social conditions of the district has been an increase in the number of residents due to the war. Whitefield is largely residential, and the available accommodation has been fully taken up. This increase has not resulted in overcrowding.

Table I.—Statistical Summary.

Area :—3,261 acres.

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of

(a) resident population mid. 1940, 12,270.

(b) average population for calculation of death rates, 1940, 12,270.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, end of 1940, 4,169.

Rateable Value, 1940, £78,658.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 1940/41, £314.

Table II.—Vital Statistics, 1940.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	174	97	77
Illegitimate	3	2	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	177	99	78
(Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, mid 1940, 14.4.)			
Still Births	10	4	6
(Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 53.5.)			
Deaths (all ages)	160	81	79
(Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 13.0*.)			
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—	Deaths		
Puerperal Sepsis	—	Rate per 1,000.	
Other Puerperal		Total (live and	
causes	2	still) births, 10.7	
	<hr/>		
Total	2		
	<hr/>		
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All infants, per 1,000 live births			50.8
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live			
births			51.7
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live			
births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil
*1940 Adjusted Death Rate (area comparability factor, 1.08)=			
14.1 per 1,000.			

The Birth Rate (14.4) and the adjusted Death Rate (14.1) are very close to those for England and Wales (14.6 and 14.3 respectively). There is also very little difference in the Infantile Mortality Rate of 51 for Whitefield and 55 for England and Wales.

Table III.—Deaths, 1940.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF CAUSES.										Males. Females.	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer—Mouth and Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Stomach and Duodenum...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Breast...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Other Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	10
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	23
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Puerperal and Post Abortional Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Congenital Defects, Birth Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
All causes										81	79

(Total, 160)

* A MAN AGED 44 YEARS.

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no important change in these provisions during the year.

The following pathological and bacteriological examinations were made during 1940 :—

- (1) Diphtheria, 18.
- (2) Enteric Fever, 2.
- (3) Milk (a) Biological, 10—1 found to contain tubercle bacilli.
(b) Bacteriological, 11—5 found to be unsatisfactory.
- (4) Water (a) Bacteriological, 1—Satisfactory.
(b) Chemical, 1—Satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council have their own ambulance and full-time driver.

Reciprocal arrangements also exist with the adjoining Boroughs of Radcliffe and Prestwich.

540 calls for accident cases and private removals were received during the year.

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

No changes have occurred in connection with the water supply and sewerage system.

A detailed statement of inspections by the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

Defects which have been found or notified have received attention. Six condemned houses were demolished in the Fountain Street area.

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

(a) Licences : The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, have been issued :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	(1) Bottling ...	Nil
	(2) Distribution...	1
Accredited Milk	(1) Bottling ...	3
	(2) Distribution...	1
Pasteurised Milk	(1) Plants ...	Nil
	(2) Retail Distributors	10

(b) Dairies, Milk Shops : There are 55 milk purveyors other than cow-keepers. Regular inspections of the premises were made during the year.

(c) Farms : There are 18 dairy farms and 400 cows in the district. All the farms in the district were inspected monthly with a view to cleanliness, limewashing and structural condition. The cleanliness of the cows and the milkers was also watched, together with methods for sterilising the utensils, cooling, bottling and sterilising the milk.

(d) Samples :

(1) For tuberculous milk (on behalf of the County Council), 10 samples—1 contained tubercle bacilli.

(2) For bacterial content, 11 samples—5 unsatisfactory.

Meat Supply.

All local slaughter-houses ceased to be used on Sunday midnight, the 14th January, 1940.

Because of the rationing, the meat supply and distribution became centralised and there is now very little local slaughtering. It is still very necessary to inspect meat coming into the shops.

508 lbs. were surrendered during the year as unfit for human consumption.

Suspected Food Poisoning.

Nine cases were reported during the year by one medical practitioner. Each case was investigated, no outbreak developed, and there did not appear to be any definite cause for these isolated cases.

Bakehouses, Food Shops, Fish Fryers and Meat Shops.

Routine inspections have been made of all the above premises throughout the year.

SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles and Whooping Cough were notifiable throughout the year. The cases were widespread, and measles was very prevalent from April to July.

There were only 6 diphtheria and 6 scarlet fever cases during the year, compared with 32 diphtheria and 22 scarlet fever in the previous year.

The only case of paratyphoid infection was acquired on holiday outside the district.

Table IV.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	6	2
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	6
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) ...	1	1
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	222	1
Whooping Cough	40	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenza)	17	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1
Erysipelas	3	2
Suspected Food Poisoning	9	—
Total number of Cases ...	306	14

Table V.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Total cases at all ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.										HOSPITAL.			
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over	Total cases removed to hospital from the district.	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district.
Scarlet Fever	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	2	—	
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	6	1	
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Measles (excluding German Measles)	222	6	14	26	24	31	110	7	2	2	—	—	1	—	
Whooping Cough	40	1	4	5	8	7	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenza)	17	2	1	2	2	—	1	—	2	2	1	3	1	—	
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	
Food Poisoning	9	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	
Totals	306	9	20	34	34	38	129	11	10	9	2	9	1	14	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme for diphtheria immunisation approved by the Ministry of Health and the Lancashire County Council was commenced in May, 1940. The County Council pay half the cost and allow the use of their school clinic and provide nursing assistance. Children between the ages of 1—15 years are treated. Three doses of toxoid antitoxin floccules are injected under the skin of the arm at intervals of a fortnight. This material, although more expensive than others which are available, very rarely produces any untoward reaction. Two medical practitioners and the Medical Officer of Health, have conducted the sessions at which 30—70 children attend, usually with their parents. The scheme has been made known and explained by leaflets sent to parents and schools, also by advertisement in the press and by special posters, issued by the Lancashire County Council. During the eight months of 1940 when the scheme was in operation, 634 children were treated. Of these, 196 were under school age. It is particularly important for children under 5 to be immunised.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

A supply of this material is kept at the Police Station and the Town Hall and is available for the doctors in the district day and night.

House Disinfection after Infectious Diseases.

No special disinfection is carried out for the ordinary infectious diseases. Fresh air and a thorough cleansing with soap and water and a simple disinfectant appear to be quite satisfactory.

Table VI.—Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.					New Cases				Deaths			
					Respira-		Non-		Respira-		Non-	
					tory.	tory.	respiratory	respiratory	tory.	tory.	respiratory.	respiratory.
Years					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	1	1	—	1	1
35	...	...	...	...	3	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
55	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
					10	7	2	2	4	1	1	1
Totals					17		4		5		2	

P.H. (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1940.

These regulations require particulars of all male persons of certain specified ages who have been on the Tuberculosis Register to be forwarded to the Ministry of Labour. The object is to draw the attention of the Medical Boards for enlistment in H.M. Forces. Several names were notified in 1940.

Smoke Abatement.

The regulations have been temporarily relaxed. One complaint was received from a resident and the circumstances were explained.

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITEFIELD.

TOWN HALL,
WHITEFIELD.

September, 1941.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District of Whitefield.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1940, and the Cleansing Department for the year ending March 31st, 1941.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk to the Council, Surveyor and Staff in general, my appreciation of the valued assistance and co-operation shown to me during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. HODGSON,
Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Complaints Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	56
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	108
Slaughter-houses, Foodshops and Street Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	308
Factories, <i>re</i> Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	16
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	4
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling Houses—Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	37
" " Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4
" " Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	44
" " Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " Shelters	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	36
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	35
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	10
Builders and Owners Interviewed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Rats and Mice Act	...	...	...	...	...	8
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	31
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	14
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	11
Farmers and Dairymen Interviewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cleansing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	179
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	470
Casualty Service	...	...	...	...	...	66
Camps and Billets	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total Number of Inspections						1,509
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	85
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	2

MILK.

The following samples were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Bacteriological Examination.

Eleven samples were submitted, five of which, on examination, were found not to conform to the recognised standard.

Biological Examination.

Ten samples were submitted, one of which proved positive, and were dealt with by the appropriate authority.

Designated Milk.

Nine samples of milk were taken from farms producing Accredited Milk, one of which did not come up to the recognised standard.

Food and Drugs Act.

Fifty-nine samples were taken by the County Police under the above Act, and upon analysis all were found to be genuine.

Meat Regulations.

The following table gives details of animals slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
7	271	3	—

The amount of unsound meat surrendered was 508 lbs.

Sanitary Accommodation.

One Pail Closet was converted to a fresh water closet, whilst one ashpit was abolished and dustbins provided.

The following table gives details of sanitary accommodation in the district on December 31st, 1940.

Fresh Water Closets ...	3952	Waste Water Closets ...	128
Pail Closets	41	Dry Ashpits	2
Dust Bins	4209	Privy Closets	52
	Privy Middens ...	29	

Lancashire County Council Rivers Board and General Powers Act.

During the year the following licences were issued :—

Section 115, 2 (Registration of Person and Premises).

Petrol Licences.

Sixteen licences were issued during 1940.

Cleansing.

The following table gives details of work done for the year ending March 31st, 1941 :—

Bins Emptied.	Pails Emptied.	Ashpits and Privies emptied.	Loads, Wet and Dry.
146,209	1,276	23	1,090

Salvage.

The following table gives revenue of and weight of Waste materials dealt with during the year ending March 31st, 1941 :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	118	10	3	18	489	6	9
Bottles	4	—	—	1	16	6	3
Tins	11	17	2	—	7	10	9
Brass	—	9	3	21	11	7	6
Scrap	12	6	3	—	26	1	3
Kitchen Waste	—	6 33	Bins	—	19	5	6
Rags	2	7	3	14	19	2	—
Copper	—	3	2	2	5	4	11
Waste Bones ...	2	11	2	10	9	—	9
Aluminium ...	—	10	1	16	24	14	5
Lead	—	6	—	5	3	17	7
Bagging and Carpets...	1	12	—	15	5	11	10
Battery Lead	—	3	—	22	1	3	3
Tyres	1	3	—	—	1	4	9
Tubes	—	—	1	22	—	3	7
Woollens	—	1	3	14	3	4	5
String and Rope	—	1	—	12	—	4	5
Pewter	—	—	1	—	1	3	4
Spelter	—	—	3	—	—	5	3
Zinc	—	—	—	16	—	1	2
Glass	1	1	2	—	2	8	5
Hair	—	—	—	4	—	1	—
	157	8	3	24	£647	9	1

Bakehouses.

There are 14 bakehouses on the register, all of which have been frequently inspected and satisfactorily maintained.

